

Reissue Application Number 10/621,105
Reexamination Control Number 90/006,089
Amendment dated 5 July 2006
Reply to Communication of 6 June 2006

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Amendments to the Claims

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b)(2), the entire text of each amended claim and of each added claim is provided below. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(g), all amendments are made relative to the patent specification that was in effect as of the date of filing the reissue application. Accordingly, the text of claims which have not been amended with respect to the patent specification that was in effect as of the date of filing the reissue application are not reproduced below.

Claim 3 (amended): A method for improving accommodation and/or treating presbyopia, the method comprising[, presbyopic patient's vision by removing a portion of the sclera tissue from an eye of a patient, said method comprising the steps of]:

selecting an ablative laser for removing sclera tissue by focusing said ablative laser to a spot size of about (5-800) microns on the corneal surface;

selecting a scanning mechanism for scanning said ablative laser;

coupling said ablative laser to a scanning device for scanning said ablative laser over a predetermined area outside the corneal limbus to remove said sclera tissue;

removing sclera tissue from outside the corneal limbus area, said removing comprising forming a pattern of radial lines in the sclera to a depth of 500-600 microns, whereby a patient's near vision is improved by the increase of the corneal lens accommodation.

Claim 4 (amended): A method of claim 3, in which said removing is performed using an ablative laser [is a gas laser] having an output wavelength of about (2.7-3.2) microns, energy per pulse of about (0.5-15) mJ on the corneal surface and a pulse duration of less than 150 nanoseconds.

Claim 5 (amended): A method of claim 3, in which said removing is performed using [ablative laser is] a mid-IR solid-state laser having a wavelength of about (2.7-3.2) microns.

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Claim 6 (amended): The method of claim 3, in which said removing is performed using [ablative laser includes] pulsed radiation generated by a transverse electrical discharge carbon dioxide laser which is frequency-doubled into a laser having a wavelength of about (5.6-6.2) microns, energy per pulse of about (2-15) mJ on the corneal surface.

Claim 7 (amended): A method of claim 3, in which said removing is performed using [ablative laser is] a diode laser having a wavelength of about 980 nm.

Claim 8 (amended): A method of claim 3, in which said removing is performed using [ablative laser is] a diode laser having a wavelength of about (1.4-2.1) microns.

Claim 9 (amended): A method of claim 3, in which said removing is performed using [ablative laser is] a diode-pumped Er:YAG laser having a wavelength about 2.9 microns and a pulse duration less than 500 microseconds.

Claim 10 (amended): A method of claim 3, in which said removing is performed using [ablative laser is] an ultraviolet laser having wavelength of about (190-310) nm.

Claim 12 (amended): A method of claim 3, in which said removing is performed using an ablative laser [is] fiber-coupled and combined with a coagulation laser and delivered to the [corneal] eye surface.

Claim 13 (amended): A method of claim 3, in which said sclera tissue is ablated in said radial patterns having a length about (2.5-3.5) mm[and a depth about (400-700) microns].

Claim 16 (new): A method as in claim 3 wherein the radial lines are at least 2.5 mm in length.

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Claim 17 (new): A method as in claim 3 wherein the removing is performed using a pulsed laser having a pulse duration of about 10-500 microseconds.

Claim 18 (new): A method as in claim 3 wherein the removing is performed using a laser focused to a spot size of about 5-500 microns.